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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 5 1979

DATE ENTERED

approved 2/8/80

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

"Lindenwald"

AND/OR COMMON

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Kinderhook

VICINITY OF

STATE

New York

CODE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Columbia

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☒ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☒ MUSEUM☒ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable)

North Atlantic Region

STREET &amp; NUMBER

15 State Street

CITY, TOWN

Boston

VICINITY OF

STATE

Mass.

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Columbia County Clerk Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Union Street

CITY, TOWN

Hudson

STATE

New York

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Building Survey

DATE

1976

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site is located two miles outside of Kinderhook, New York, in Columbia County and several miles west of the Hudson River. The surrounding area is sparsely settled and has a rural agricultural character. The town was the birthplace of Martin Van Buren, eighth president of the United States. 48 acres of land surround the 12.8 acre National Historic Site on three boundaries. Conservation easements dictating agricultural uses compatible with the historic setting are proposed for the area across the Albany Post Road. The estate mansion, Lindenwald, the secondary buildings that remain, and the grounds are currently being stabilized.

The following historic buildings and sites remain on the grounds:

#### Lindenwald (No. HS 1)

Lindenwald was built by Peter Van Ness in 1797, a person of considerable prominence locally whose military career developed into a political one as New York State Senator, a position he held for many years. At sixty years of age, Van Ness decided to build a house. He hired local builders and used native materials in the construction of his two-and-one-half story Flemish bond red brick Federal style residence which rests on a raised, random laid fieldstone masonry foundation. The interior space was arranged around a central hall and rear staircase with two rooms placed symmetrically on either side. The second floor had four rooms corresponding to the same plan while an attic lodged servants. The kitchen in this house-type was located in the basement as were areas for laundry, wood storage, cold storage and other household support activities.

The house was gabled with chimneys at either end and still has a handsome Palladian window with switchline tracery lighting the second floor stairhall. The main doorway was, characteristically, the focal point of the main elevation with an elaborate fanlight surmounting it. The house was stone masonry, wall bearing, faced in brick with a stringcourse defining the stories. There were rubbed brick window lintels and a bracketed cornice as well.

There were five bays across the front and four on the side facades, giving each room two shuttered, 6-over-6 double hung sash windows on both of its exterior walls. The rooms were beautifully finished by intricate woodwork, some of which was hand-carved by Judge Van Ness. Details include dentil moulding, reeding fans, triglyph friezes, pronounced entablatures on the doorways, and early hardware on the 8-panel doors. There are delicate plaster cornices and rosettes applied to the ceilings.

The Red and Green Parlours are richly finished with moulded and paneled ceilings, deep window reveals and interior shutters. They have several of the six European, carved marble fireplace mantels and architraves, replete with fluted Ionic colonettes. There are also enormous gilded mirrors in each formal room, bought in New York City. The Red Parlour has been given a stylized ogee arch in the Upjohn renovation.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1797, 1849

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Richard Upjohn

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site is significant because it was the estate of the eighth president of the United States, has architectural merits and retains distinctive features of a nineteenth century farm in the Hudson River Valley.

Van Buren purchased Lindenwald during his Presidential term and lived there until his death in 1862. During the twenty-three years residence at Lindenwald, Van Buren operated a successful 82 acre farm on the 225 acre estate and experimented with cultivating new varieties of vegetables. Although the National Historic Site now contains 12.8 acres, the enabling legislation mandates a total of 40 acres.

Lindenwald is a distinctive structure architecturally because it is a post-colonial house with mid-nineteenth century modifications designed by a significant American architect, Richard Upjohn. In addition, Lindenwald retains remains of its original plumbing and heating system, installed during Van Burens residency; features include water closet, lead piping and zinc lined bathtub, and coal burning furnace, one of the first central heating systems in the Hudson Valley. The house also has the wallpapers that decorated the walls during Van Buren's occupancy.

The archeological remains on the site, including the farm office, barn, gatehouse and other former farm structures and features, hold information about Van Buren's farming operations. These deposits also are likely to contain data important to reconstructing and explaining the way of life followed by Van Buren, his visitors, his family and his employees.

Van Buren treasured Lindenwald and worked constantly to maintain and improve it. In his own words, this is where he chose to spend ". . . the last and happiest years of my life, a farmer in my native town."

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Platt, John Historic Structures Report: Historical Data Martin Van Buren  
National Historic Site, National Park Service, 1977

Master Plan National Park Service, 1970

Conversation with William N. Jackson, Site Historian

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 12.8

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 606 288 469 450  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C               

B                 
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D               

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

*see Site Plan*

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Bronwyn Krog, Preservation Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, North Atlantic Region

STREET & NUMBER

15 State Street

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

DATE

1/31/79

TELEPHONE

223-3778

STATE

Mass.

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES   

NO   

NONE   

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

*Asst. Dir., Cultural Resources*

DATE

*5/24/79*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Kristin O'Connell*

DATE

*2-8-80*

DATE

*2/5/80*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The manor was set at the center of a sweeping semi-circular driveway and was complemented by the full range of secondary buildings.

William Van Ness inherited the estate at his father's death in 1804 and was the proprietor until 1824. During this time, Washington Irving was a frequent guest and tutored Van Ness' children.

The house was purchased at an auction in 1824 by William Paulding, Jr. who lived there until 1839 when Martin Van Buren acquired title to the house and attendant 137 acres of land. He continued acquiring property until, after six years, he held a total of nearly 225 acres.

Van Buren embarked on a program of renovations to Lindenwald that began with the removal of the stair in the central hall to a more unobtrusive position in the den, framed by a Gothic alcove. This freed the central hall to function as a ballroom for its social owner. The French wallpaper, "Paysage a Chasses", applied at that time, still remains intact although in a deteriorated condition. Conservation studies for this historic 1841 wallpaper are underway.

Due to circumstances in his political career and a desire to have one of his sons eventually take over the estate, it was decided that Van Buren's son, Smith Thompson and his wife would move in after adding on to the house to accommodate them. Thus, in 1849, Smith Thompson hired a very prominent ecclesiastical architect, Richard Upjohn, to design and add a rear wing and a library ell on the southwest facade.

Upjohn's work imposed an Italianate asymmetry and lavish decoration onto the ordered, restrained elegance of the Federal composition. The alterations made to the structure included two dormers and a central gable added to the front roof slope and a dormer on the rear slope, the closings of both gable end windows, bracketing under every available cornice, a heavily ornamented Victorian front porch, window hoods in some cases, and a crowning dramatic Italianate tower.

The Upjohn addition is a one-story wing of common bond red brick with sandstone trim on the basement. There is a round-arched major doorway built into the northeast elevation that is fully framed by a wide glazed band. The roof of the addition, in contrast to the wood shingle of the 1797 house, is a red-painted tin that has been crimped over vertically set strips to resemble board-and-batten, also known as standing-seam metal roofing.

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The gabled tower top is about four stories in height and contains a stair up to an open air observation porch and belfry. There are coupled round-arched openings on either side of the tower and narrow round-headed windows paired on the solid, adjoining walls. These narrow openings reappear below to admit light to the stairwell. The round-headed windows are repeated elsewhere in the gable pediments and dormers, and other picturesque details are liberally used, including board and batten-sided dormers, bracketed window hoods and sills, and an incongruous oriel. The bricks of the exterior walls were painted cream-colored with a red trim to match this earlier treatment of the 1797 house.

The rear wing was built by a local carpenter named Barent Van Slyck and its interior elements included a full basement, a breakfast/billiard room, a library, a hallway to the tower and major wing entrance, a bathroom, a nursery, a bedroom and a skylit hallway.

The late 19th-early 20th c. owners of Lindenwald wrought few structural changes and, at most, stripped some of the Italianate ornamentation from the eaves, aside from removing the Victorian porch. This was replaced by a grand two-story portico across the southeast elevation. Its four, square wood columns support a flat roof and wood balustrade. Bathrooms and a kitchen were installed in the house in the modernization.

Today, Lindenwald is still an imposing mansion, surrounded by extensive lawns and mature trees. Many fine architectural details survive from the historic period including the Palladian center window with the 8-over-6 panes and three-pane sidelights bordered with narrow panes both in this window and beside the main entrance. Four fluted ionic pilasters separate the window units and rest on moulded corbels. The entrance is deeply recessed with a paneled reveal and has pilasters supporting a shelf entablature. The sidelights are recessed too and steps in a foreshortened Palladian shape lead to the wide eight-panel Dutch double door. The remainder of the windows are 6-over-6 with wood sills and flat arch brick lintels and have white-painted louvered shutters. The addition has segmental windows.

Interior features that remain from the historic period include the original kitchen and service quarters, a bake oven, and an early kitchen stove with ovens installed by Van Buren bearing the logo Moses Pond and Co., N. 28 Merchants Row, Boston. An old zinc bathtub and pipes remain. Original silver-plated doorknobs and hardware are predominantly intact on the first floor and the floorboards themselves are in satisfactory condition. The interior trims for cornices, windows, doors, fireplaces and their mantels are of the period as well. There is also an 1848 furnace that Van Buren, at the vanguard of heating technology, had installed and

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which appears to be in impeccable condition. Of interest, too, are two first floor indoor necessities with moulded covers and wooden seats. The mansion has an inventory of over 200 pieces of furniture and household items, nearly half of which were Van Buren's while the remainder are in the Empire style, fashionable during the historic period.

South Gatehouse (No. HS 2)

Originally one of a pair of gatehouses that were situated at either end of the large semi-circular drive that leads from the Albany Post Road, the South Gatehouse remains extant while the North Gatehouse is but foundation walls and some rubble. They were reputedly added to the estate in 1841-43 and are basically one room with a full basement underneath and a single fireplace, although no chimney is in evidence on the remaining structure. The South Gatehouse is currently used as a residence by a previous owner and tenant with a special use permit.

The South Gatehouse is a rectangular plan, one-story structure which measures 22' x 14'. It is carpenter Gothic in style. It is a wood frame structure sheathed in buff-painted board-and-batten and has corner boards, sills, window, door, and other trim painted a contrasting brown. Resting on a raised random-laid fieldstone masonry foundation, the one room cottage has a wood shingled, gabled roof. Characteristic of this style, too, there are bargeboards trimming the raking cornices and eared, wooden window and door lintels. The windows of the three bay front facade by two bay side are 9-over-9 double hung sash with a 6-light gable end window to light the roof volume. Nearby the Gatehouse is one of the old stone 10 mile markers along the Albany Post Road.

North Gatehouse Foundation (No. HS 3)

The North Gatehouse site is a 14' x 22' rectangular foundation of dry and random laid fieldstone located at the north side of the semi-circular drive near the Albany Post Road. It is currently fenced to prevent intrusion.

Farm Office site (No. HS 4)

The Farm Office is an unexcavated site located behind Lindenwald and near the southwest boundary line. Traces of fieldstone indicating a foundation are visible in the indentation in the ground area where the Farm Office was. It is currently fenced against intrusion and under study.

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The grounds at Lindenwald National Historic Site include 12.8 acres of the 225-acre farm that Martin Van Buren presided over in 1845. In addition to the sites of the North Gatehouse and Farm Office, other archeological remains associated with Van Buren's farm activities are expected on the grounds and within the easement areas. Archeological resources from earlier historic or prehistoric periods might also occur.

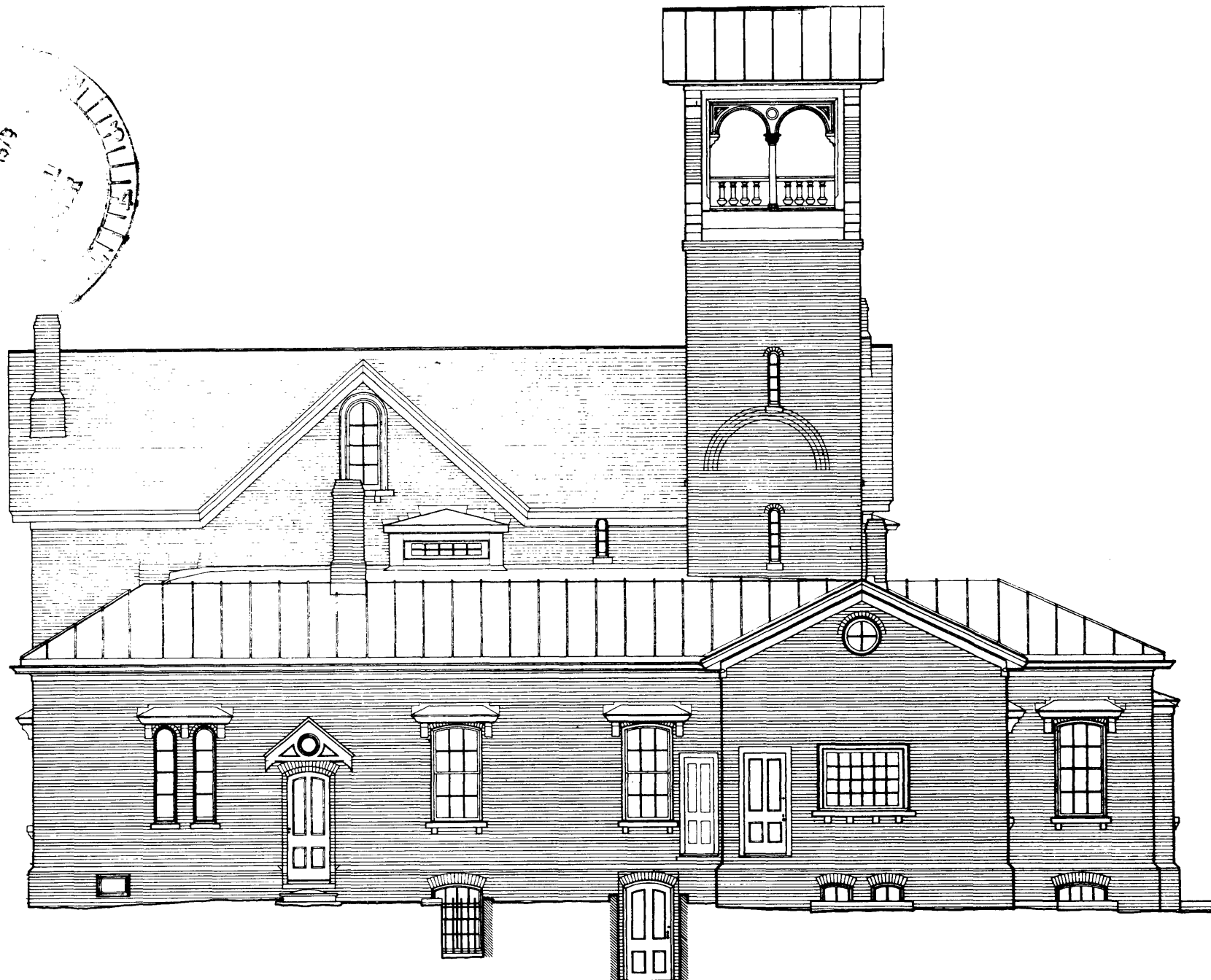
Lindenwald is approached via a semi-circular, gravel surfaced drive, indented slightly at the top in front of the mansion. A small graveled walkway nearly circular in shape was laid out before the mansion and its grassed interior contained a flower bed outlining a fish pond and urn. Lining the drive on either side were imposing rows of linden trees. These features of the property will be restored.

There are, in addition, a drive that circles behind the mansion and a farm road leading to a carriage barn located to the rear of which not even a trace remains. A modern antique shop and a cement block garage structure will be removed from the site.

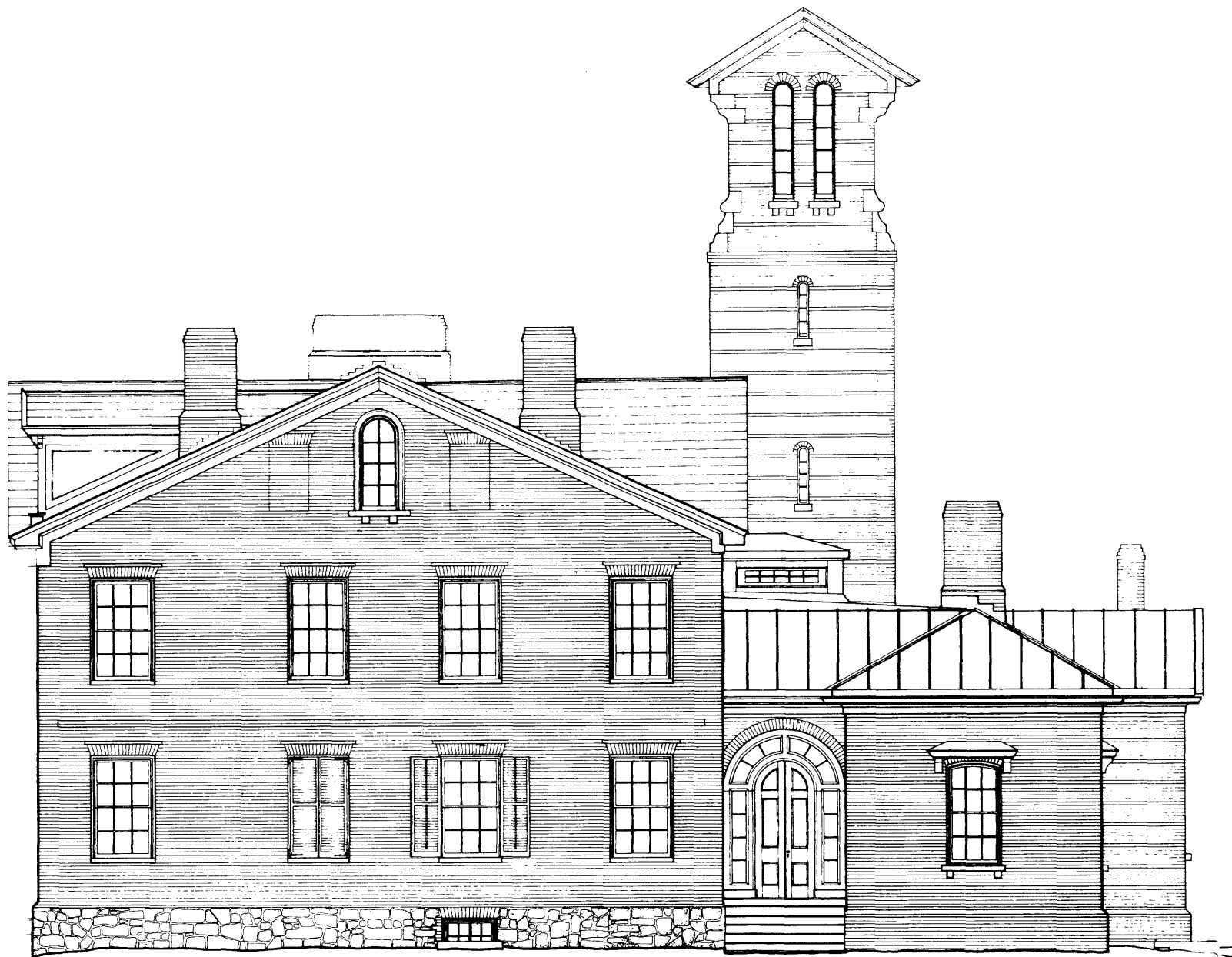
JAN 30 1980



JUN 5 1919  
PHOTOGRAPHED



WEST ELEVATION



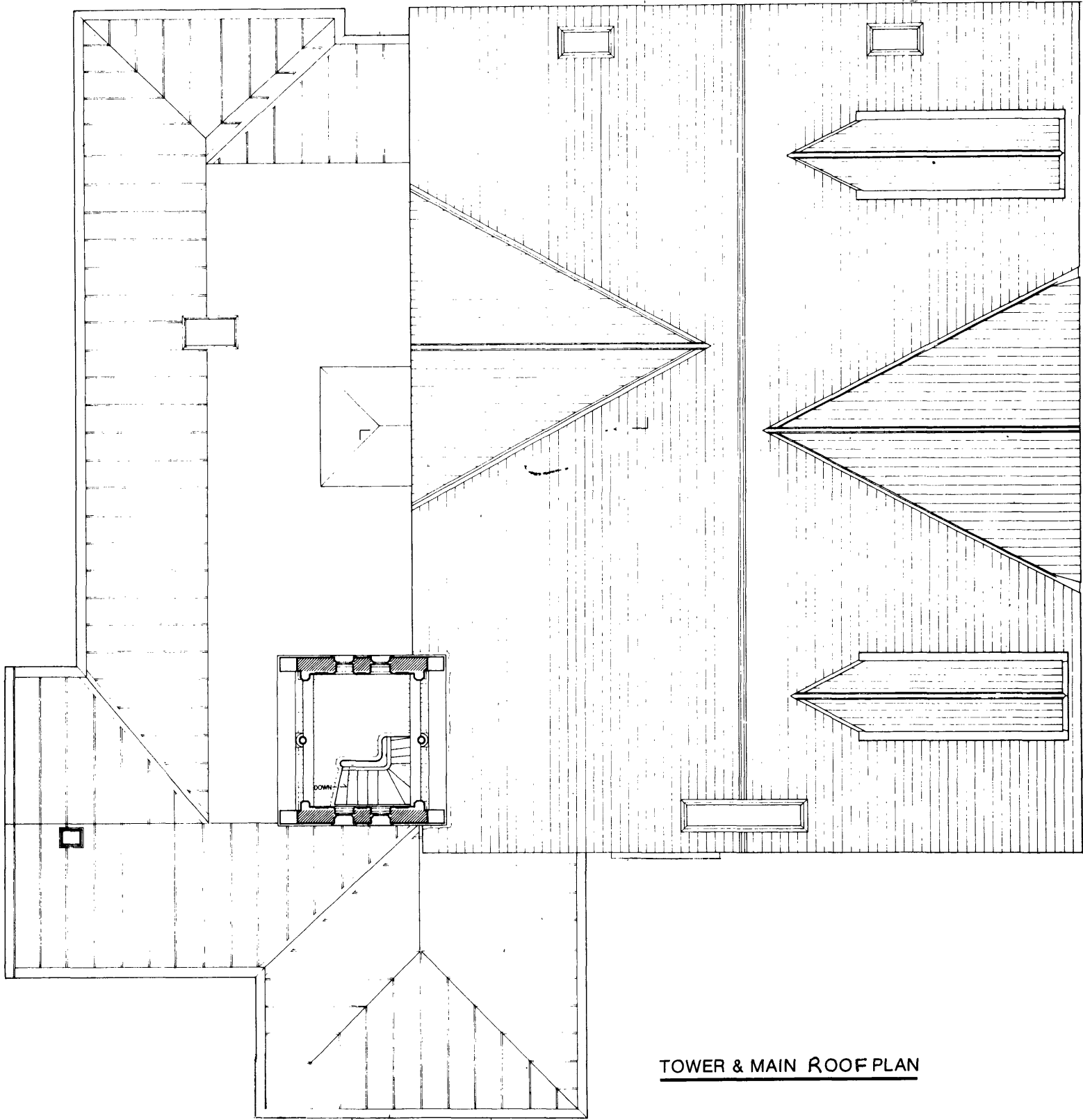
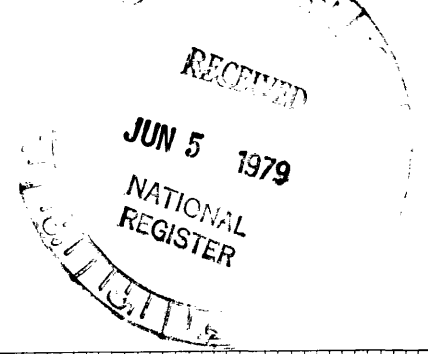
NORTH ELEVATION



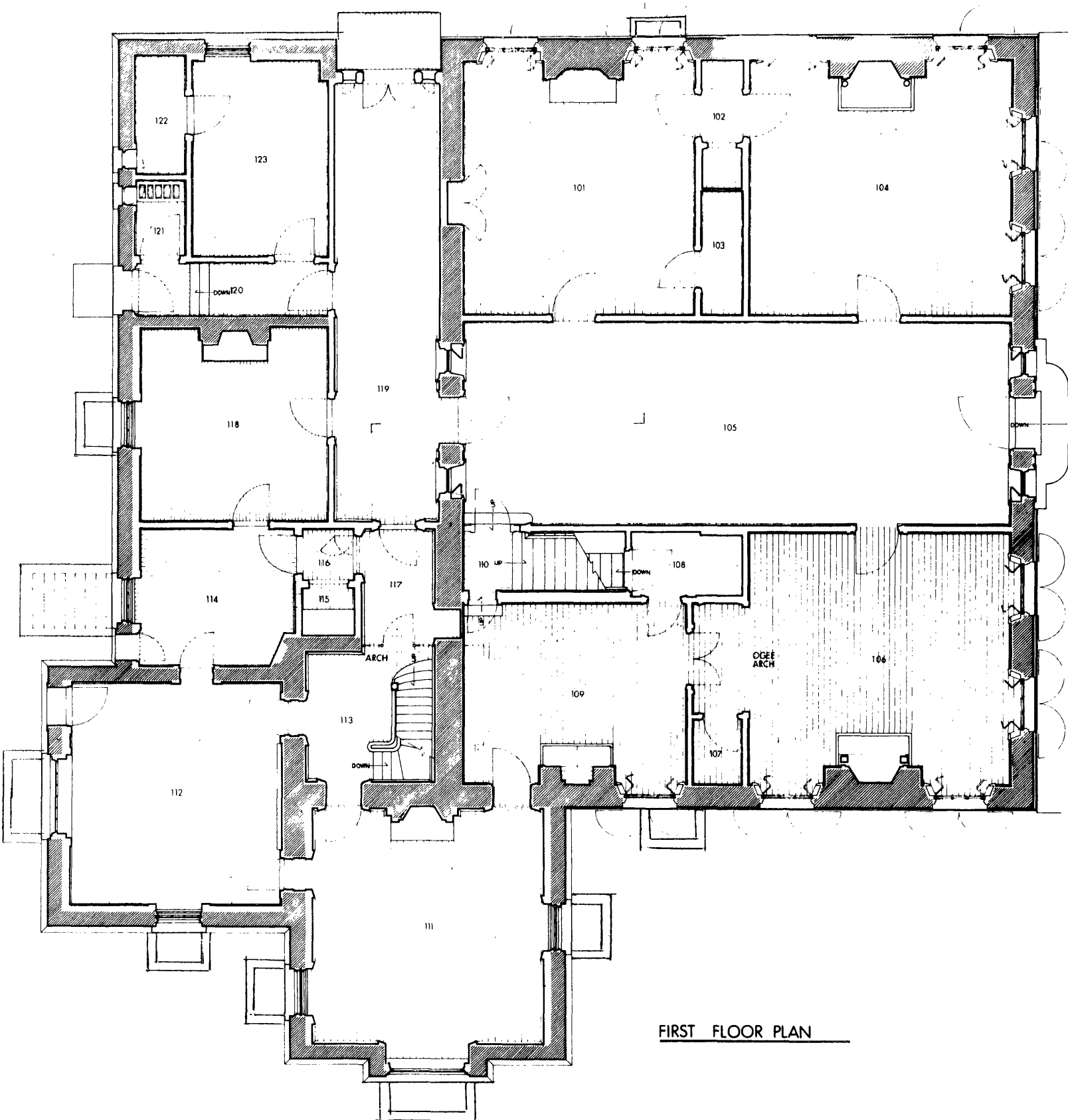
EAST ELEVATION



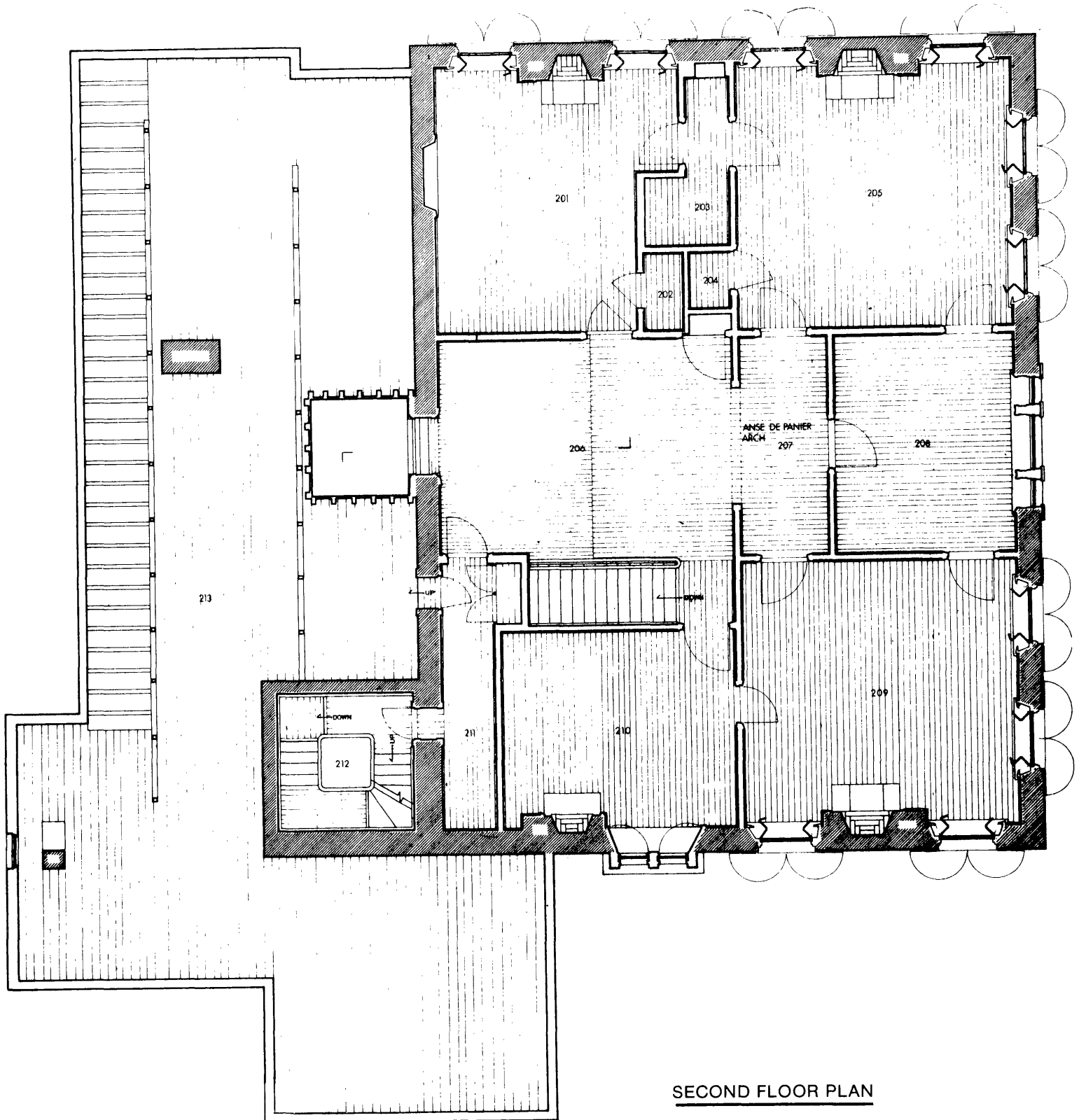
SOUTH ELEVATION



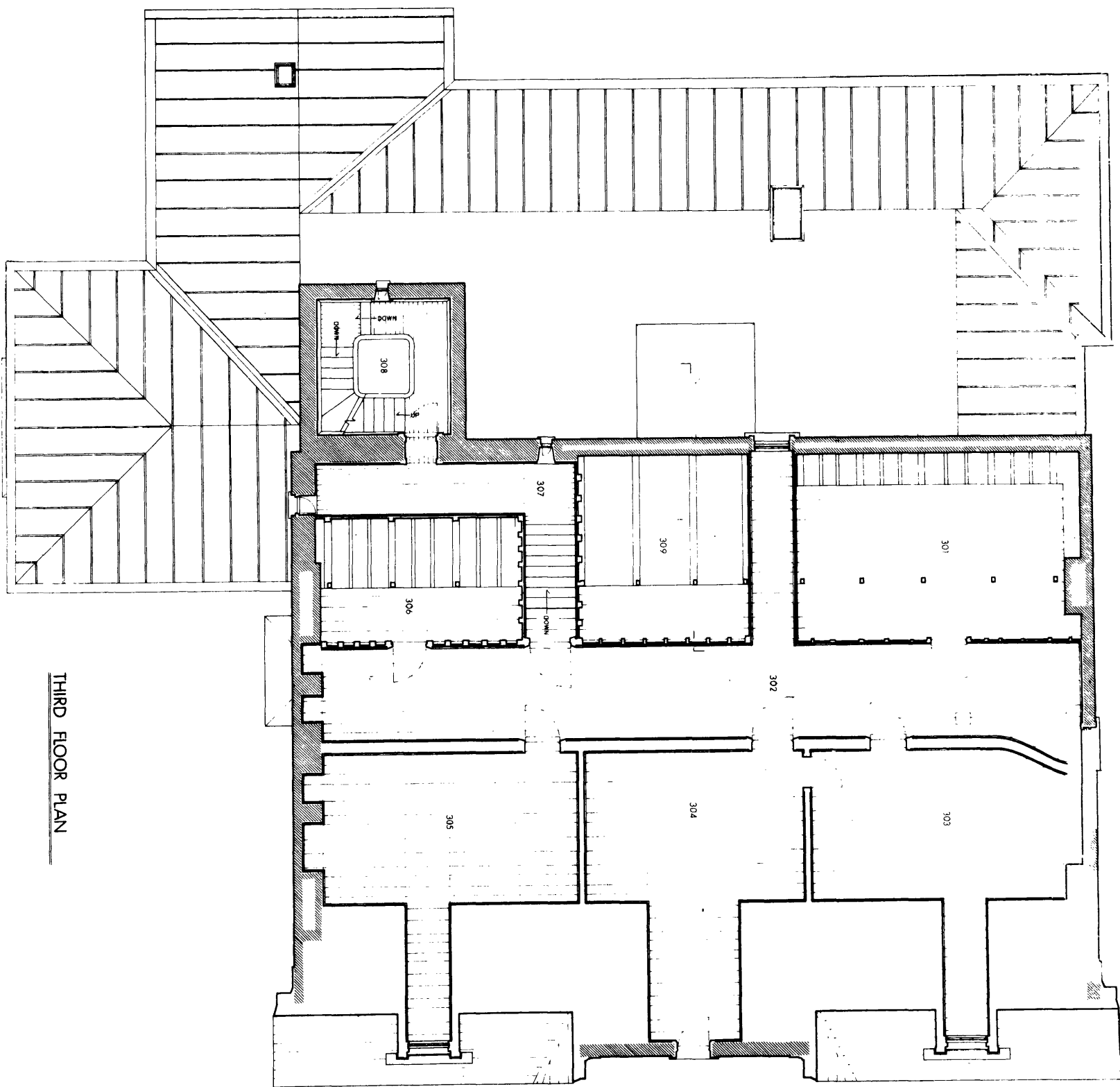
TOWER & MAIN ROOF PLAN



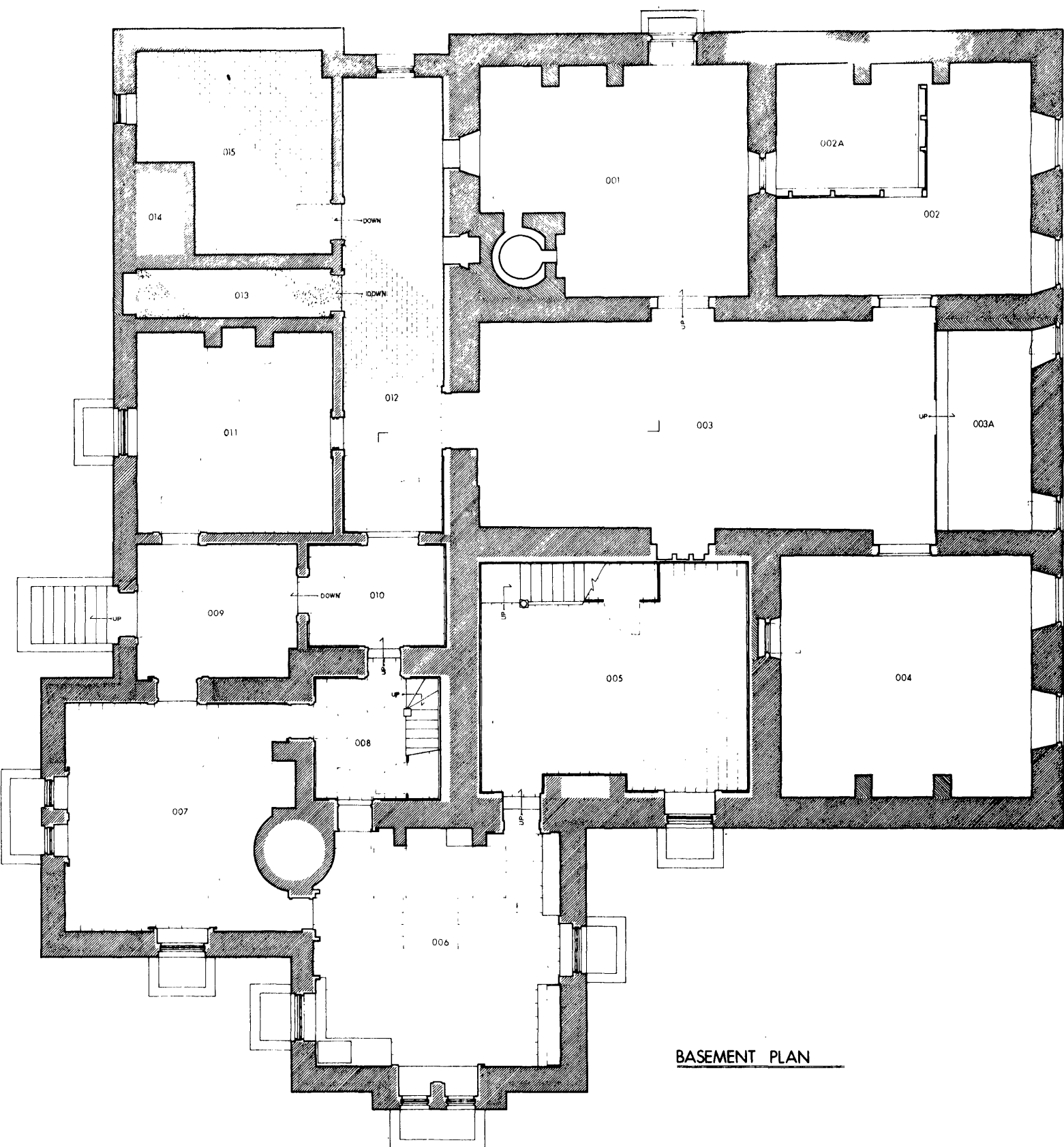
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



THIRD FLOOR PLAN



BASEMENT PLAN